

Historic Photographs

Hunting & Gathering





Old Makah whale hunter with canoe and floats at Neah Bay, 1900

By 1900, when this photograph was taken, whale hunting had become less important economically to the Makah because commercial whaling fleets had depleted the whale population. The cultural significance of the whaler endured, however, and great prestige still surrounded successful hunters. The float inside the canoe is made from inflated sealskin and was attached to the harpoon line when it was thrust at the whale. Negative Number: MOHAI 88.33.36

The Makah people of Washington's Olympic Peninsula hunted whales and other sea mammals from large seagoing canoes. The hunters harpooned the animals and kept them from sinking by attaching floats made from sealskin filled with air. This photo, taken in 1900, shows a row of Makah canoes, probably at Neah Bay. The canoe in the foreground is filled with sealskin floats. Negative Number: MOHAI 88.33.23



Whaling canoe at Neah Bay, 1900

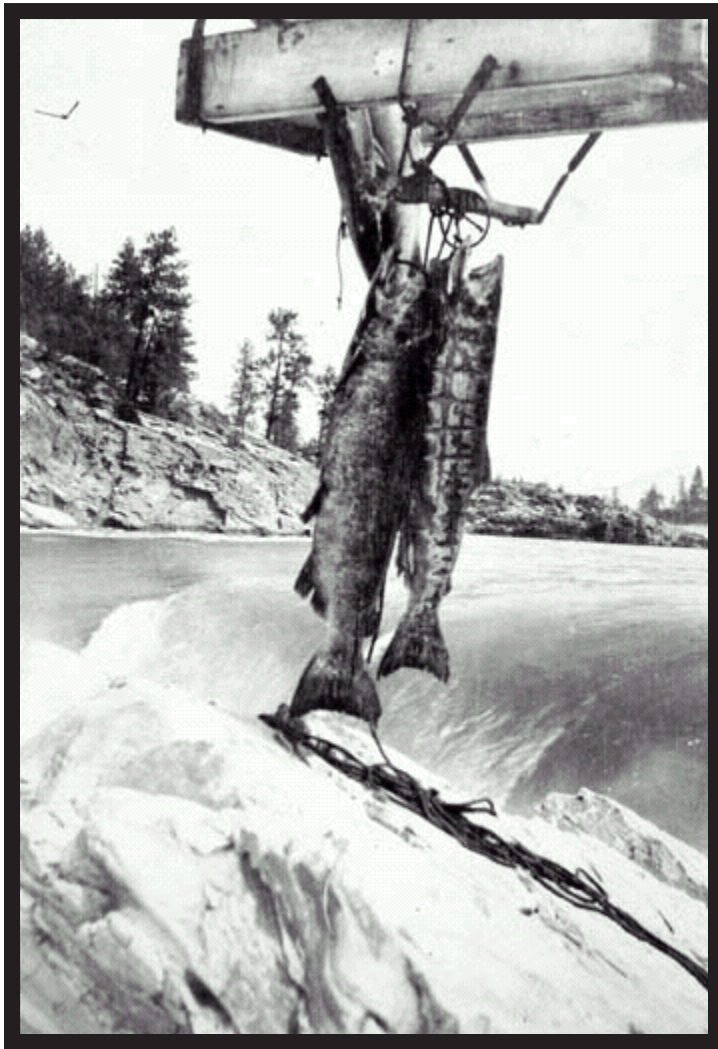


*Columbia River area
Indians fish with
spears from
platforms at The
Dalles, Oregon, ca.
1910. Negative
Number: NA746*

A man stands on a log by a river holding a very large salmon in one hand and a spear in the other. He wears a floppy brimmed hat and overalls. **Negative Number:** L94-8.2



*Colville fisherman, Kettle Falls,
Washington, ca. 1930s*



Colville fishermen catch salmon at Kettle Falls, Washington, 1939

Two salmon are being pulled
across the river at Kettle Falls.
Negative Number: L95-62.5



Men standing on rocks beside
water fish at Kettle Falls.
Negative Number: L97-12.13

Colville men fishing from rocks, Kettle Falls, Washington



Man in canoe
(blanket around
knees) hauling an eel
out of the river with a
net. **Negative Number:**
NA1964

Eel fishing on the Snake River, Washington, ca. 1902



Indian berry pickers on Vashon Island, June 1943

In the summer of 1943, the Vashon Island Packing Company hired 80 First Nations people from British Columbia to weed and harvest strawberries, loganberries, and currants. The Indian workers replaced Filipino workers who were now growing vegetables and working in World War II industries. The Canadian farmworkers earned 50 to 60 cents an hour, reportedly two to three times what they might have made at home. Those who stayed the whole summer had their transportation to and from Canada paid for as well. This June 1943 photo shows some of the Indian workers in a Vashon Island strawberry field. **Negative Number:** PI-23856



Makah men flense (cut) blubber off a beached whale, while others gather around to watch. Negative Number: NA721

Makahs cut up whale on beach at Neah Bay, Washington, 1910



Makah men in canoe readying to harpoon a whale dragging a float; man in prow raises harpoon, man just behind him hold rope in hand as canoe tips towards whale. Negative Number: NA740

Makahs in canoe get ready to harpoon a whale off the coast of Washington, ca. 1930

Five
fisherman
wearing hats
and western
style clothing
stand on fish
traps in a
river, possibly
the Puyallup.
Negative
Number:
NA4183



*Puget Sound area men fishing from wooden platform,
Washington, ca.1890-1895.*



Man holding spear stands
on rocks in the river
above a fish trap.
Negative Number: NA712

Wenatchi man fishing at trap, Tumwater canyon, Wenatchee
River, Washington, ca. 1907



Older woman
wearing scarf and
dress sits outside
near buckets, cans
and boards.

Negative Number:
NA1542

*Chehalis woman with basket weaving
items, Grays Harbor, Washington, ca. 1906.*



*Makah woman with gathering
basket, Washington, 1910*

Makah woman photographed on beach,
wearing head scarf, pinned blanket and
carrying basket on back. Negative Number:
NA584